

Tunable function of feeding network and SPDT switch for WIMAX application

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ABSTRACT

A tunable circuit that functions as a power divider and a single pole double throw (SPDT) switch is proposed in this paper. The power divider design was based on the conventional Wilkinson power divider (WPD). Since WPD design has wideband properties, a modification was made in the design to make it narrowband so that it will only work for WiMAX applications. Two shorted stubs were introduced in the transmission line of the output ports to encounter the mismatch when the function was switched to an SPDT switch. Rogers RO4350 ($\epsilon_r = 3.48$, $h = 0.508\text{mm}$) was used as a substrate material and copper (thickness = 0.035 mm) related to patch of this proposed design. When the circuit functioned as a power divider, the simulated result showed $S_{11} < -16\text{ dB}$, $S_{12} > 3.97\text{ dB}$, and $S_{23} < -14\text{ dB}$ for both operating frequencies of 2.5 GHz and 3.5 GHz . On the other hand, when the circuit functioned as an SPDT switch and port 2 was in the ON state, the simulated result showed $S_{11} < -35\text{ dB}$, $S_{12} > -1.1$, $S_{13} < -16\text{ dB}$, and $S_{23} < 18\text{ dB}$ for both operating frequencies of 2.5 and 3.5 GHz . The proposed design showed a good performance as a power divider and an SPDT switch, thus, it can be used for multifunctional microwave circuits.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In terms of microwave and millimeter systems applications, power dividers play an important role in power combining and splitting [1]. Power divider can be used to allocate the input power into two different paths with preferred power dividing ratio. Currently, reconfigurable mobile terminals have become trendy. Thus, there are many reconfigurable antennas that have been examined and demonstrated [2]-[4]. In order to support the systems, advanced feeding network is essential [5], [6]. Besides, rapid development in modern wireless communication has resulted in high demand for reconfigurable circuits.

There are many techniques can be done to achieve tunable properties of power dividers. Most of the researches focus on tuning the operating frequency in power divider [7]-[13]. Tuning the power division ratio also become a recent trend for research [14]-[18]. Varactors [8]-[17] and pin diodes [7], [18] are the main component used to achieve tunable functions of the power divider.

Tunable power divider does not mean to tune the operating frequency or power division ratio only, but it also can tune the functions of the power divider. However, there are only a few works available on tunable functions of power divider. In [19]-[21], reconfigurable power dividers that can perform as a power divider or a switch were discussed. In [19], it discussed the reconfigurable power divider based on the concept of modes match and impedance match between substrate integrated waveguide (SIW) and half-mode SIW (HMSIW). However, the size of the circuit was very bulky and it had a complex design.

Two reconfigurable power dividers based on micro-strip lines were discussed in [20]-[21]. The proposed designs in [20] and [21] can either perform as a power divider or a switch.

In [20], by using the positive and negative group delays, power divider can be tunable between path 2 and 1 for positive group delay (PGD) or path 3 and 1 for negative group delay (NGD). However, there was a trade-off between group delay and bandwidth. Furthermore, in [21], it proposed two designs with different numbers of switches. In the first design, by using three switches, it can re-route the output power between one and two ports. Meanwhile, in the second design, four switches were used and a switched coupled line transformer was employed in the design. However, the reflection coefficient (S_{11}) was not ideal when power was routed from port 1 to port 2.

In this paper, two designs of the modified Wilkinson power divider are presented, which have dual functions that can perform as a power divider or an SPDT switch in a single design by using PIN diode. Two shorted stubs were introduced to encounter the mismatch when the function was changed to the SPDT switch state. Furthermore, this proposed design had a simpler design and showed a good performance for both functions (as a power divider and an SPDT switch), compared to [19] and [21]. In this paper, the tunable functions of feeding network and SPDT switch were designed, simulated and investigated.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

2.1. Wilkinson Power Divider and Design Equation

In 1960, Ernest Wilkinson proposed the Wilkinson power divider, which gives isolation between ports at the output and is adept to match in all ports. It can also be lossless when the port at the output is matched [22]. Figure 1 shows the equal transmission line circuit for WPD that delivers an equal force to both ports at the output [23].

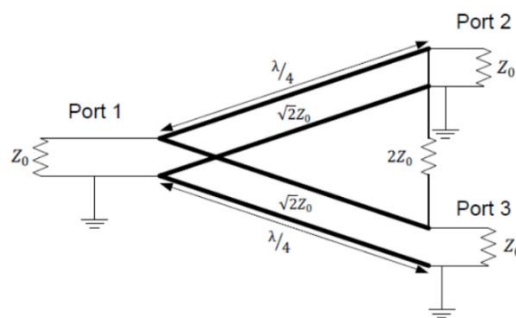


Figure 1. The circuit model of transmission line for WPD [23]

WPD is a three-port network that consists of one input port and two output ports as shown in Figure 1. Generally, the power can be divided equally or unequally at two different working frequencies depending on the application.

Based on the conventional WPD, two WPDs were designed for working frequencies of 2.5 GHz and 3.5 GHz. Z_0 value of 50Ω was used in the design. Furthermore, the design also included an isolation resistor with a value of $2Z_0 = 100 \Omega$ and an impedance of a quarter-wave section split transmission line with the value of $\sqrt{2}Z_0 = 70.7 \Omega$. In (1), it shows a perfect scattering matrix (S-matrix) of WPD with a load.

$$S = \frac{-j}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

The S-matrix shows that when the signal enters port 2, it will be the same as port 3, as it separates equally into port 2 and 3. Ports that are matched sets (S_{11} , S_{22} , and S_{33}) are equal to zero. The power divider is lossless as the signal enters port 1. The magnitude, which is the total squares each component of column one of the S-matrix, is equivalent to one [23].

2.2. The Proposed Design of Modified WPD and SPDT Switch

By adjusting the voltage biasing, the function of the proposed design can be switched to either a power divider or an SPDT switch. The proposed design is based on the conventional Wilkinson power

divider. Since the conventional Wilkinson power divider has wideband properties, a modification was made to the design so that it becomes narrowband. Narrowband is required so that it will only allow signals at 2.5 GHz and 3.5 GHz. Since two operating frequencies are required for WiMAX applications, two modified WPDs were designed with matching stub to achieve dual functions. PIN diode is an essential component in order to achieve a tunable function. Figure 2 shows the two configurations of the tunable functions of feeding network and SPDT switch and the position of PIN diodes (D1-D6) for different operating frequencies (2.5 GHz and 3.5 GHz).

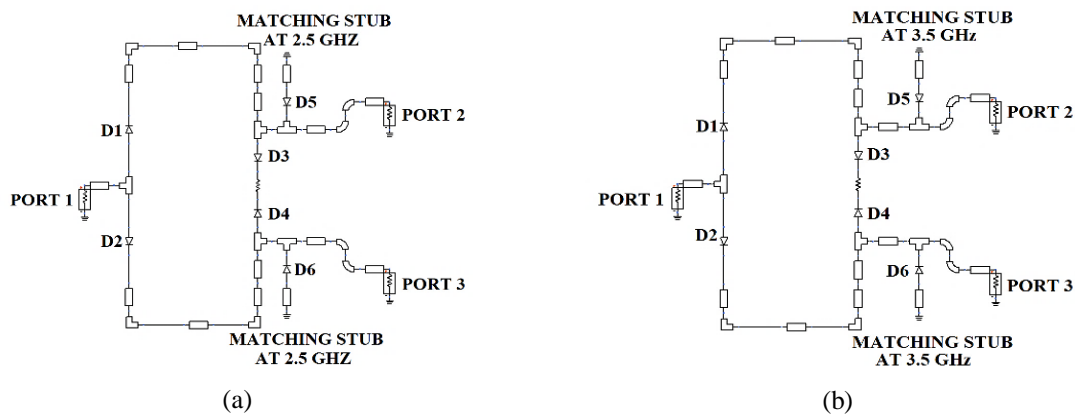


Figure 2. The proposed design of the tunable function of feeding network and SPDT switch

Figure 3 (a) and (b) show the circuit configuration when the function is in the power divider state for both operating frequencies. In this state, the matching stubs will be turned off. The matching stubs will be used for SPDT switch state only. PIN diode D5 and D6 are the controlling switches for the matching stubs. When the D5 and D6 diodes are turned off and the other switch is turned on, it will operate as a power divider.

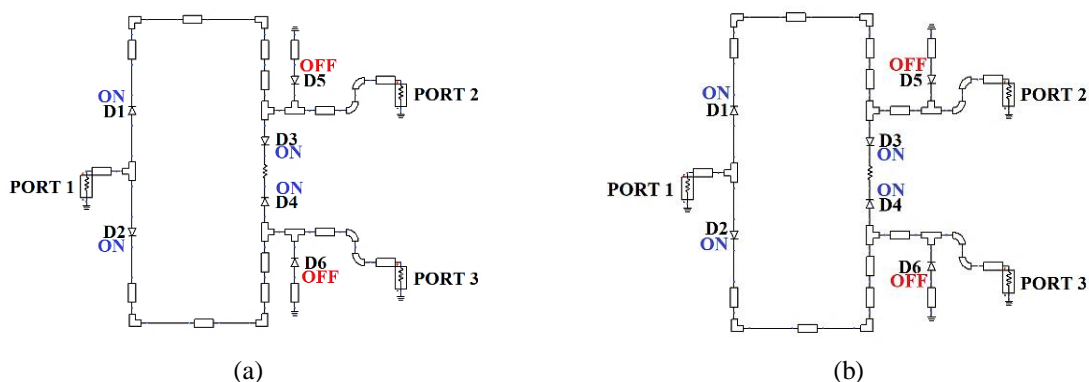


Figure 3. (a) Circuit configuration of power divider at 2.5 GHz and (b) circuit configuration of power divider at 3.5 GHz

Figure 4 (a) and (b) show the circuit configuration when the circuit is in the SPDT switch state at operating frequencies of 2.5 GHz and 3.5 GHz, respectively. In this state, only one of the output ports will be switched on and the matching stub connected to the transmission line of the output port will also be switched on to encounter the mismatch. Without the matching stubs, the operating frequency in the SPDT switch state will be shifted. From Figure 4, port 2 will be in the ON state and port 3 will be in the OFF state. In order to turn off port 3, PIN diode D2, D3, D4, and D6 will be switched off.

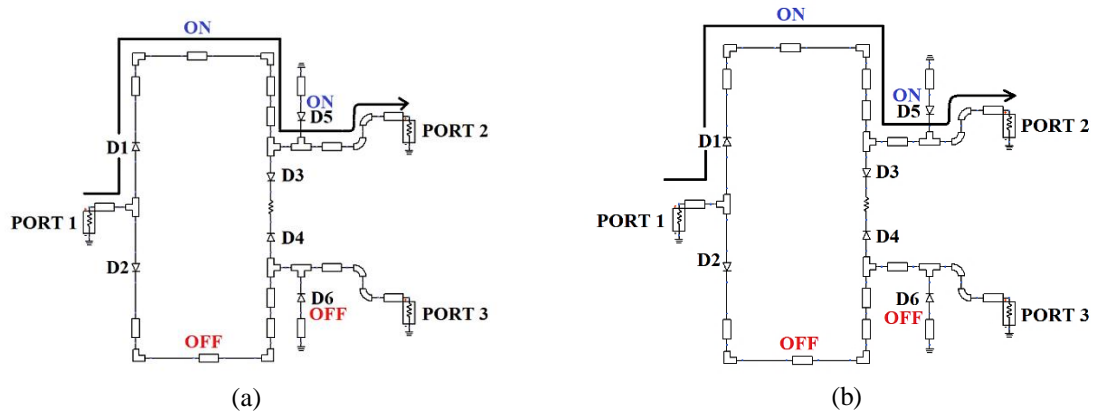


Figure 4. (a) The circuit configuration for SPDT switch at 2.5 GHz and (b) the circuit configuration for SPDT switch at 3.5 GHz

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

3.1. The Proposed Design of Modified WPD

A parametric study was conducted to make the operating frequency narrowband. It was found that transmission line at the input and output ports played an important role to make the proposed design became narrowband. When the transmission line of the input and output ports were adjusted, the power divider did not have the same impedance value as compared to the conventional WPD, which was at $Z_0 = 50 \Omega$. For the conventional power divider, the transmission line at the input and output ports had the same dimension. However, for this proposed design, transmission line at port 1 had a different dimension than the transmission line at port 2 and 3. Port 2 and 3 must have an equal dimension of transmission line even after tuning in order to deliver an equal force to both ports at the output.

The proposed power dividers in Figure 2 (a) and (b) were simulated to acquire the results for S_{11} , S_{12} , S_{13} , and S_{23} . Figure 5 (a) and (b) show the results for S_{11} , S_{12} , S_{13} , and S_{23} at operating frequencies of 2.5 GHz and 3.5 GHz.

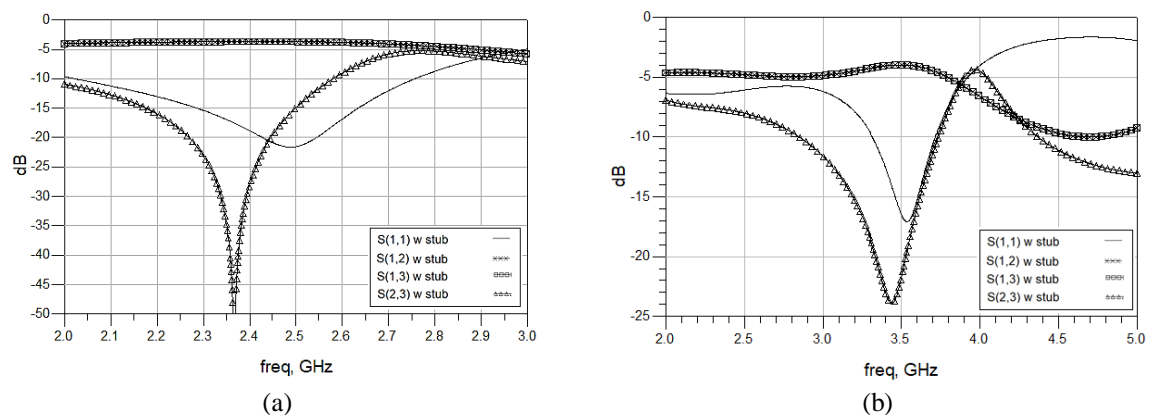


Figure 5. The results of S_{11} , S_{12} , S_{13} and S_{23} for power divider at (a) 2.5 GHz and (b) 3.5 GHz

The return loss of the proposed power divider at 2.5 GHz was 21.554 dB, S_{23} was -14.968 dB, S_{12} , and S_{13} was -3.698 dB. Meanwhile, the return loss of power divider at 3.5 GHz was 16.444 dB, S_{23} was -21.835 dB, S_{12} and S_{13} was -3.964 dB.

3.2. The Proposed Design of Modified SPDT Switch

The PIN diode D_5 and D_6 played an important role when the state was switched from power divider to SPDT switch. D_5 and D_6 only turned on for the SPDT switch function because it was connected to the matching stubs that were used to encounter mismatch.

In order to obtain SPDT switch state, PIN diode D2, D3, D4, and D6 were turned off. This made port 2 to be in the ON state and port 3 in the OFF state. Figure 6 (a) and (b) show the return loss, S11 and insertion loss, S12, S13 for frequencies at 2.5 GHz and 3.5 GHz for SPDT switch, respectively.

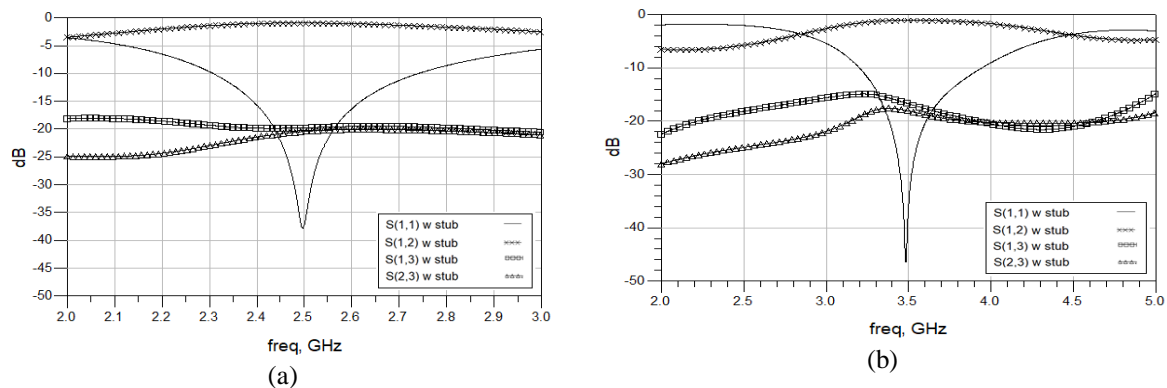


Figure 6. The results of S11, S12, S13 and S23 for SPDT switch at (a) 2.5 GHz and (b) 3.5 GHz

The return loss of the proposed SPDT switch at 2.5 GHz was 37.467 dB, S12 was -0.924 dB, S13 was -19.773 dB and S23 was -20.429 dB. Meanwhile, the return loss of the SPDT switch at 3.5 GHz was 39.992 dB, S12 was -1.033 dB, S13 was -16.712 dB and S23 was -18.060 dB.

Table 1 lists the performances of previous works on reconfigurable power dividers based on SIW/HMSIW and microstrip line. From the table, this proposed design has competitive return loss, insertion loss, and even isolation when working as SPDT or power divider. In [19], the design was based on SIW or HMSIW technology. Nevertheless, the design was complex, bulky (in terms of circuit size) and difficult to fabricate. Meanwhile, in [21], the designs were based on microstrip lines and they were simple. However, in [21], the result of the SPDT switch function for S11 was not ideal and it did not include the results for isolation between the output ports. Compared to the previous works [19] and [21], this work had a simpler design. This design only used matching stubs and was able to achieve dual functions. Furthermore, this design also had a good performance compared to others.

Table 1. Comparison of Tunable Function Circuit with Different Technologies

	This Work		[19]	[21]	
Method	Based on microstrip lines		Based on siw/hmsiw technology	Based on microstrip lines	
Complexity	Simple design		Complex design	Simple design	
Center Frequency	2.5 Ghz	3.5 Ghz	4.95 Ghz	2.14 Ghz	
S11	-21.554	-16.444	14.5	< -20	POWER DIVIDER (Db)
S21	-3.698	-3.964	4.35	> -4	
S23	-14.968	-21.835	> -7	< -20	
S11	-37.467	-36.992	-15	-17	SPDT (PORT 2 IS IN 'ON' STATE) (Db)
S21	-0.924	-1.033	-1.35	-0.8	
S31	-19.773	-16.712	-23	< -20	
S23	-20.429	-18.060	-27	-	

4. CONCLUSION

The tunable functions of a feeding network and an SPDT switch for WiMAX application were designed, simulated, and analyzed successfully. Two modified WPDs were designed with matching stubs to achieve dual functions by using PIN diodes. The simulation results for the tunable functions of feeding network and SPDT switch showed good performance for both frequencies at 2.5 GHz and 3.5 GHz. In the power divider state, the simulation result for S11 was less than -16 dB, S23 less than -14 dB, and S12 and S13 better than -3.964 dB. Meanwhile, in the SPDT state, the simulation results showed that the return loss was more than 35 dB, the S12 was better than -1.1 dB, S13 was less than -16 dB, and S23 was less than -18 dB.

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